

873 Broadway  
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New York, N.Y. 10003

June 16, 1970

TO ALL MIDWEST BRANCHES AND LOCALS

Dear Comrades,

Recent court decisions regarding election laws have opened up new possibilities for putting the Socialist Workers Party on the ballot. In some states where we have been able to obtain ballot status in the past these decisions have knocked out some requirements that made it expensive and time-consuming to do so. We are hopeful that additional challenges now in the courts will facilitate petitioning in other states which have in the past required a great deal of effort.

Even more important is the fact that court rulings, combined with the growth of the SWP and the YSA, have made it possible for us to attempt to get ballot status in states where the party has never been on the ballot.

One of the key states in this latter category is Illinois, which is one of the four or five largest and politically most important states in the country. To achieve a successful breakthrough in Illinois would add significant political weight to our 1970 campaigns on a national scale, and will pave the way for a greatly expanded list of states where our 1972 campaign will be on the ballot.

Because of the political importance of Illinois, and the political capital for our entire movement that can be gained from a successful petition campaign there, the national offices of the SWP and YSA, in consultation with the comrades in Chicago, have decided to request mobilization of the Midwest branches and locals for two Saturdays in July -- the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> -- to help with petitioning work.

The campaign will be to obtain 40,000 signatures, no more than half of which can come from Cook County (Chicago). Recent petitioning experience has indicated that a full mobilization of the Midwest, with maximum participation of all comrades, can obtain 40,000 signatures in two weeks.

In order to facilitate these mobilizations the New York Branch, which has in the past called on the Midwest for New York State petitioning, has agreed not to ask for help from the Midwest this year.

In addition to the Saturday mobilizations, every branch and local should make every effort to send at least a couple of comrades to Illinois to help with the petitioning for a period of from several days to a week.

Midwest branch and local organizers should discuss this mobilization with the executive committees and membership and send me a report as soon as possible on how many comrades will be participating in the mobilization, and how many comrades will be available for a more extended stay in Illinois. Copies of the report should be sent to the Illinois SWP Campaign Committee, 180 N. Wacker Dr, rm. 310, Chicago Illinois 60606.

Comradely,

*Larry Seigle*  
Larry Seigle  
National Office